



# HISTORY AFIELD

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FINAL  
LITERATURE REVIEW  
ORAL HISTORY OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI LOCKS & DAMS NOS. 3-10  
DACW 37-87-M-1503

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January 1989

by Jo Blatti  
HISTORY AFIELD

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The attached report, Phase I Oral History of the Mississippi River Locks and Dams Nos. 3-10, is a literature review in preparation for field interviewing. The general subject of the study is the construction and early operation of the nine Corps of Engineers lock and dam facilities located between Red Wing, MN and Guttenberg, Iowa. These facilities are components in the 9-foot channel system which established slackwater navigation on the Mississippi between St. Paul and New Orleans in the 1930s.

Information was gathered under four categories of historical inquiry: Corps of Engineers history, staffing and work conditions; community relations; environmental and other special interest activism; engineering as a profession. The St. Paul District locks and dams were built between 1930 and 1939. Since both antecedent and subsequent events are of importance in interpreting oral history memoirs, the general time period for the study should be understood to be thematic, and highly selective elements of river history from around 1920 through to the present.

The literature review was conducted under the provisions of contract no. DACW 37-87-M-1503; it is a project of the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District Office, Jo Blatti of HISTORY AFIELD, principal investigator. This study is in partial fulfillment of ER 870-1-1, requiring selective oral history documentation of field operating activities within each Corps district.



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The study reports on archival and field research conducted at metropolitan Twin Cities repositories, community repositories in Winona (MN), Red Wing (MN) and LaCrosse (WI) plus visits to lock & dam complexes 3-8. 68 referrals for 9-foot channel oral history are included with this report, along with preliminary evaluation of two other oral history collections on 20th century river work located in the course of research. The literature review recommendations include suggestions for immediate action on 2-3 pilot project interviews on lock & dam construction and engineering history. Additional recommendations outline intermediate and longer term prospects for Corps of Engineers oral history research in the light of existing historical resources.

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This report, Phase I Oral History of the Mississippi River Locks and Dams Nos. 3-10, comprises a literature review in preparation for field interviewing. The subject of the study is the construction and early operation of the nine Corps of Engineers lock & dam facilities located between Red Wing, MN and Guttenberg, Iowa. The St. Paul District built locks and dams no. 3-9 in the 1930s; the Rock Island District constructed lock & dam no. 10 in the same period, and the facility was later transferred to St. Paul District oversight.

The literature review was conducted under the provisions of contract DACW 37-87-M-1503. Archival and field investigations (totaling 225 hours) were performed in the period January-April 1988. Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office sponsored this study, which is in partial fulfillment of ER 870-1-1, requiring selective oral history documentation of field operating activities within each Corps district.

The primary purposes of this study were:

- 1) to thoroughly assess relevant historical works and primary source collections
- 2) to identify potential oral history narrators for Corps of Engineers interview.

Per agreement with Corps staff, four general foci or themes were investigated: Corps history; community relations; environmental and other special interest activism; engineering as a profession. The survey for relevant works included: Corps files at the St. Paul District office; Twin Cities repositories; community and regional repositories along the Mississippi River; Corps lock and dam facilities.

This report, which summarizes findings to date, is divided into the following sections:

- I. Introduction and overview
- II. Existing historical resources
- III. Theoretical and methodological approaches
- IV. Evaluation and recommendations

Appendices

- \* References located
- \* Identification of Corps oral history narrators (potential)
- \* That's River Lost project narrators
- \* Project correspondence

Overview

Locks & dams nos. 3-10 on the Mississippi River are components in the 9-foot channel project built in the 1930s. Snags and low water, the principal hazards to commercial and recreational navigation on the Upper Mississippi, were the focus of continuing attention from the Corps plus various political and commercial interests for much of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The 4 1/2-foot and later the 6-foot channels, accomplished by the construction of wing dams and dredging, proved inadequate. The feasibility for a mechanically dammed slackwater navigation canal dominated the discussion of possible remedies in the last 1920s. A controversial approach, it inspired divisive opinion within the Corps of Engineers and vocal opposition from railroad interests and environmentalists concerned about the economic and ecological effect of raised river levels. The project enjoyed the support of prominent business interests and politicians such as Minnesota Senator Henrik Shipstead, and it was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930.

In the St. Paul District, the project began in 1930 and was completed in 1938. Project funds were allocated from federal relief sources through 1935. In those years, lock and dam construction constituted a major Depression era unemployment relief program of the Public Works Administration. The remainder of the project was funded through Rivers and Harbors appropriations.

In terms of human scale and geographical considerations, the St. Paul District locks & dams take in a good-sized territory. 5000 people worked on the project at its peak in the mid-1930s; the payrolls at individual sites averaged approximately 600 each (HAER, p.8). Dozens of contractors, from LaCrosse, Wisconsin to New York state, bid and built sections of the project. Participants' activities encompassed theoretical and field engineering; approximately 80 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled classes of labor (Dam #5 History, p.11); all manner of administrative and clerical work; provision of community-based goods and services out of the towns up and down the river; liaison with the Public Works Administration and later the Works Progress Administration.

The nine locks and dams that occupy our attention in this project are located in 11 communities in 3 states:

L & D 3--Red Wing, MN

L & D 4--Alma, WI

L & D 5--Minnesota City, MN

L & D 5a--Winona, MN and Fountain City, WI

L & D 6--Trempealeau, WI

L & D 7--LaCrescent, MN and LaCrosse, WI

L & D 8--Genoa, WI

L & D 9--Lynxville, WI

L & D 10--Guttenberg, IA



These host communities vary a great deal in terms of relative size, complexity, and regional significance. In the 1930s, LaCrosse, Red Wing, and Winona were good-sized communities that had been important regional centers since settlers began entering the upper Mississippi valley in the 1850s. The Corps of Engineers boatyard at Fountain City was the organizational center for wing dam construction predating the 9-foot channel and remains the center of dredging operations necessary to maintain the channel. Alma and some of the other river towns are/were very small; they offered very little in the way of accommodations or accustomed amenities to sojourners temporarily in residence for the locks & dams projects (Daly, p.623). Other relevant locales include the "home office" in St. Paul, an engineering testing lab in Iowa, recreational areas and wildlife refuges--some of which have their origins in those early years.

The historical evidence concerning the 9-foot channel falls into three broad categories:

1--physical and environmental evidence

This includes engineering, technological and construction histories of the locks and dams as researched and written by contemporary Corps staff, consultants and the authors of the 1930s construction reports. This also includes the fact of physical change in the Mississippi River. Much 9-foot channel discourse tends to occur in terms of Tainter and roller gates, miter valves and the like, but the occasion for this hardware is, after all, the transformation of the largest river in North America into a slackwater canal. The lock & dam complexes and attendant siltation within the

channel bear on continued Corps operations - particularly dredging policies - aesthetic/environmental, and ecological/biological concerns.

2--institutional and intellectual history

What were the economic and political ideas that led to the construction of the locks & dams? Complex politicking, years of dredging and wing dam construction toward the 4 1/2-foot and then the 6-foot channel, and a federally operated barge line are among the antecedent events to the 9-foot channel. The Corps itself was the biggest carrier on the river in the 1920s and 1930s (Merritt, p.165). Over the past couple of generations,

- the timber interests
- the farm interests
- environmental interests
- the railroads
- water transport concerns
- politicians on state, local and federal levels
- Corps personnel

have all plumped for their views concerning the most fitting development of the Mississippi River between Mpls-St. Paul and points south. There's ample precedent for a "contested terrain" approach to the River, generally.

3--Third are social and cultural considerations.

This category concerns lived experience and interpretation-- the province of oral history and to a large extent, community history. What significance do fabricators and witnesses attach to the 9-foot channel project? What place have the locks & dams in their life patterns, their careers, their

communities, their ideas? How does this major alteration in the river intersect with traditions, work, physical conditions which pre-date the project? What has happened in the intervening 40-50 years which may shade memory and interpretation of the 9-ft. construction? This includes the Depression and the New Deal as factors affecting recollection and structure of memory.

Potential oral history informants

The potential informants for this inquiry are a diverse lot:

- \* Those who worked directly on the project - administrators, engineers, supervisory personnel, skilled and unskilled labor, the contractors, secretaries, bookkeepers, government relief liaison
- \* government wives - spouses of Corps employees who followed their husbands to the construction sites and perhaps their children.
- \* residents of the locks and dams river towns in Minnesota and Wisconsin: construction workers, pilots, barge and excursion boat operators, restaurateurs, families who rented to Corps personnel and the like; old-timers who helped construct the wing dams; dredge operators; officials who may have worked on municipal services in the 1930s.
- \* Then there's other: environmental activists; railroad lawyers; federal lawyers brought in to match their talent; local farmers and others whose property or business interests brought them into contact with the Corps project.

We can reasonably look to human memory for two broad purposes in the 9-foot channel project. One is amplification of existing documents-- such as the construction histories for the locks and dams, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) study and institutional data. The other oral historical avenue is creation of new records-- particularly in the area of Corps-community relations on the river, environmental activism in the wetlands, engineering as a profession. To the best of our knowledge, there simply isn't much documentation in these areas.

This is an interview universe of generous proportions. It is important to note at the outset that there are pronounced limitations on the interview possibilities for the 9-foot channel project; the advancing age of project participants and the social geography of a mobile society are the most obvious and the most compelling.

## II. EXISTING HISTORICAL MATERIALS

There is considerable material concerning the construction and operation of the 9-foot channel available in Corps files and Twin Cities archives, most notably the Minnesota Historical Society. The principal sources include:

- \* the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) study of locks & dams 3-10 commissioned by the Corps of Engineers
- \* Jon Gjerde's National Register work (also commissioned by the Corps) on the channel history and structures
- \* Corps of Engineers construction histories of each lock and dam
- \* Old Man River, the mimeographed house organ published throughout the project

- \* written memoirs of Corps personnel and river personalities
- \* folklore and fiction concerning Mississippi River communities
- \* biographical, environmental and business collections of the state and county historical societies
- \* institutional histories of the St. Paul District done by Merritt and others.

An annotated list of these and all other references examined in preparation for oral history research is appended to this report.

The Corps RFP for the initial inquiry into 9-foot channel oral history resources and the successful HISTORY AFIELD bid were based on an "applied" research model. The explicit assumption was that an adequate purchase on pilot oral history could be gained through consultation of the Gjerde National Register study and the O'Brien HAER report, supplemented with more socially grounded materials easily accessible in Twin Cities repositories.

Upon examination, a different picture emerged. Though the resources noted above are rich, they are also limiting in terms of preparation for 1980s oral histories. The general periodization for these 9-foot channel materials is strong on the 1920s and 1930s with little record of the intervening 50 years. The available primary materials are heavily weighted toward physical aspects of construction, personal papers of long-deceased political actors and the blandly official records of often controversial events. Most of the recent secondary sources, such as Gjerde's National Register work, O'Brien's HAER report, Scarpino's and Brunet's studies of 20th century environmentalist issues on the Mississippi, are intellectual and institutional histories as distinct from social or experiential inquiries.

In terms of the evidence considered, these works are "located" in Washington, D.C. hearings, bureaucracies and lobbying activities, regional headquarters of government agencies and environmentalist groups and Twin Cities businesses and clubs; there is little discussion of the river itself. In addition, 20th century environmentalist collections at the Minnesota Historical Society, a major collector and repository on this topic, are skewed toward north central and northeastern regions of the state. Though it appears that the Mississippi Valley was the locus of considerable environmentalist activity, state archival holdings do not permit deep inquiry. In summary, the easily available documentation presented both genuine limitations and hints that the 9-foot channel universe was deeper and broader than initially imagined.

### III. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As a consequence, the research design for the 9-foot channel literature review was altered in midstream (so to speak). Environmental Resources staff and HISTORY AFIELD amended the scope of work in February of 1988. By mutual agreement, the literature review was expanded to include preparatory research in the lock and dam host communities; the number of pilot interviews was reduced to 3-4 in number. In essence, the literature review was redefined as "basic research."

The resulting fieldwork strategy for the literature review combined survey of metropolitan repositories with downriver forays to lock and dams nos. 3-10. The agenda for downriver travel included:

- a visit to each lock and dam facility. The purpose was to see the facilities in operation, to meet current staff and to solicit their suggestions for oral history narrators.
- survey of the principal repositories en route. Winona County (MN) Historical Society, Goodhue County (MN) historical Society and the Area Regional Collection at Murphy Library, the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse were identified in advance as the most promising collections.
- informal observation of the river towns in relation to the Corps installations.

#### Report on fieldwork

Two field trips were made to Corps installations and historical repositories between Red Wing, MN and Genoa, WI in the period March 30, 1988 and April 6, 1988. Lock and dams nos. 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8 were visited, as were the Fountain City Service Center (WI), Goodhue and Winona County Historical Societies in Minnesota, and Area Regional Collection at Murphy Library, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. The Wisconsin towns of Alma, Fountain City, Genoa and Trempealeau were explored as were the larger communities of LaCrosse, WI and Winona, MN. The flu interrupted progress toward locks and dams nos. 9 and 10 and Prairie du Chien; a "make-up" trip was deferred due to budget considerations.

In terms of 9-foot channel research, the downriver journeys proved valuable. Corps employees at the locks and dams facilities contributed approximately 60 suggestions for oral history interviews. An alphabetical list of all potential narrators, including reason for interview and source of suggestion, is appended to this report.

Fragmentary, but valuable, clues about the movement and impact of 9-foot channel construction crews, plus conditions in host communities were gathered. A cache of 34 oral histories on 20th century river work recorded in 1982-83 was discovered at Winona County Historical Society (alphabetical checklist appended).

#### Intellectual framework

In terms of intellectual scope, four broad areas of inquiry emerge from the 9-foot channel research: Corps history, staffing and work conditions; community relations; environmental and other special interest activism; engineering as a profession.

##### \* Corps history and construction history

St. Paul District staffing and management patterns were transformed by the task of producing the 9-ft. channel locks and dams. The staff tripled as a consequence of the project. Formal engineering credentials became important in a way that they never had before. A complex chain of command, characterized by parallel tracks for administrative and engineering tasks, was set up (Merritt, pp.187-192).

The individual lock and dam complexes present another area for inquiry. Each site presented distinct engineering situations and working conditions. At the same time, the construction histories suggest a "shifting infrastructure" of assigned Corps engineers, successful contractors and some laborers who travel among two or more of the 9-foot channel jobs. In the first years, 1930-1935, the federal Public Works Administration is a player also.



In addition, the HAER study raises questions about the origins of design and aesthetic elements of the 9-foot channel: who did design the structures? where did ideas about design originate? are there direct links (aesthetic or intellectual) to other engineering/public works projects of the time in the minds of project participants? The testing elements of the 9-foot project appear especially notable to 1980s observers: was that the case for 1930s participants?

\* Community relations

The locks and dams were built in the historical context of many years interaction between residents of the river communities and the Corps of Engineers. The Corps has been dredging, building wing dams and active in recreation, wildlife habitat and municipal sanitation along the Mississippi for several generations. Local residents have been on the payrolls as hired labor and have contracted to provide special skills, services and supplies. And they've intersected regularly with Corps employees on the waterborne world of commercial, passenger and recreational boat use. Are there pre/post 9-foot channel comparisons or conventions within the river communities? For instance, to what extent is the channel associated with a shift or redirection of employment opportunities along the river? How do community members up and down the river describe and evaluate the 9-foot channel and related Corps activities?

\* Environmental and other special interest activism

There was considerable argumentation about the 9-foot channel.

The railroads, environmentalist groups, local farmers, Corps staff, all - at one point or another - questioned the need and the likely effects the channel would bring. In terms of 1930s concerns, the most important elements appear to be the establishment of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge (administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service) and the lobbying and educational activities of the Izaak Walton League, the largest and most vocal environmentalist organization in this region in the 1920s and 1930s. For example, the League actively questioned the effects of the proposed 9-foot channel pool levels on wildlife habitat and was successful, along with railroad allies, in altering specifications of the project (See Gjerde, pp.104-105 and Scarpino, pp.114-150). Following these negotiations with the Corps, the League supported the channel.

\* Engineering as a profession

Depending on the interests and memories of oral history narrators, the Corps may have a chance to gather unique data concerning the social role of the engineering profession and the self-perceptions of engineers. Engineering was the most rapidly growing American profession early in the 20th century -- from 7000 in 1890 to 226,000 in 1930 (Wilson, p.35). Many of these new young engineers are the fellows who built the 9-foot channel and other mid-century public works. The engineer appears as a hero in all manner of popular magazine fiction in this period plus the works of Willa Cather, Frank Norris and other Progressive writers and a wave of autobiographical works--"The Memoirs of a Mining Engineer

in \_\_\_\_." Taken together with questions that arise out of Edwin Layton's work on social responsibility and engineering, public works history and some of the multidisciplinary work concerned with cultural redefinition in the 1920s, this could provide the basis for a ground breaking series of conversations with retired engineers.

There is another question of interest here that the Corps may or may not wish to engage: that is one of the government payroll and local economics, crudely speaking, the operation of the pork barrel. How do people in the Corps and in these river communities see the relationships among government improvements, the regional commercial and political interests and more local concerns? We tend to disconnect government improvements and the invisible hand of the free market in official political discourse. Is this the case in informal, everyday conversations? I don't know. But the 9-foot channel could be an excellent opportunity to explore a question that is fundamental to our civic arrangements.

#### IV. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The construction and operation of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi River is an extraordinarily complex topic. Even the most limited foray into this territory necessarily involves comparative research in intellectual and institutional history, community studies, public works, engineering and design, politics and environmental issues, with elements of fiction and folklore thrown in for good measure.

In terms of the Corps of Engineers oral histories, it seems most sensible to discuss work to date under these sub-headings: background

research; identification of oral history narrators; recommendations for further work. It is important to recognize that the state of general research and knowledge of potential narrators stand at varying -- and not necessarily congruent -- points of development within the proposed research design at this writing.

### Background research

Four areas of inquiry have been identified for special focus in the 9-foot channel oral histories: Corps history, staffing and working conditions; community relations; environmental and special interest activism; engineering as a profession.

#### 1. Corps history

Sufficient research has been done to embark upon oral history interviews. The HAER study, for example, taken together with the individual construction histories, provides the basis for detailed interview concerning design, construction, participating contractors, questions of institutional change within the Corps. Field research and the pattern of oral history referrals suggest a line of inquiry about paths of entry - through family and community as well.

Some desired materials, most notably the Public Works Administration records pertaining to the 9-foot channel construction, remain elusive. Considerable effort was made to locate these materials in Minnesota and Wisconsin repositories to no avail. Though continued inquiries at regional and federal collections are in order, archivists have warned that these quasi-state/quasi-federal materials are the sorts of records that often fall between the cracks - unindexed or uncollected.

## 2. Community relations

As the appendix on sources demonstrates, materials in this area have been fragmentary and suggestive, as distinct from probing or analytical. The best single reference is Elkins' community history pamphlet on Trempealeau and lock/dam no. 6. The other materials add up to brief mentions of PWA hiring halls, commissaries, room rentals and unelaborated assertions of change before and after construction of the channel. While providing leads for questions, the data underscores the likelihood that most of the information concerning community conditions during construction remains in individual memories. Though it would be important to assess similar materials for locks and dams nos. 9 and 10, no further digging for sources on other host communities seems warranted.

## 3. Environmental activism

This, too, is fragmentary data in some respects. The emphasis on Chicago and Washington activities of the Izaak Walton League in the materials examined to date provides little in the way of Minnesota/Wisconsin/Iowa perspective. In addition, it appears that Iowa, the area least thoroughly considered in the literature review for reasons of time and money, is the locus of 1920s and 1930s records and activity.

As the appendix on sources indicates, additional research is necessary into environmental resources. Much of the material noted in the "located, but not examined" section is on personal loan to the contractor from Patrick Brunet of LaCrosse. Additional sources could be sought in conjunction with a locks 9-10 field trip.

#### 4. Engineering as a profession

Edwin Layton's work and bibliographic notes provide a valuable introduction to issues of training, status, employment patterns and ethics. Though additional materials--esp. from popular literature and advertising--would be welcome resources, there is enough on hand to frame inquiry concerning career choices, inspirations, images and the like.

#### Identification of oral history narrators

Any oral history of the 9-foot channel commissioned by the Corps of Engineers will be additional to two collections on 20th century river work that already exist. One is folklorist Jane Curry's interview series with riverboat pilots for her 1983 study, The River's in My Blood: Riverboat Pilots Tell Their Stories. Though uncatalogued, those tapes and transcripts are available at the audio-visual collection of the Minnesota Historical Society. Three of Curry's narrators, Alan Fiedler, Walter Karnath and Robert Richtman, are of particular interest to Corps and 9-foot channel history. All three have since died. Dr. Curry has expressed a willingness to share those transcriptions with the Corps. The second collection is the interview series (30+ narrators) made for the That's River Lost audio-visual production in 1983. The original interviews, approximately 40 hours total, are in the collection at Winona County Historical Society. An alphabetical listing of the tapes, with dates, locales and general subject of interview (if known), is appended to this report. Regrettably, these interviews are neither indexed or transcribed.

Seven persons suggested as narrators for the Corps project have already been interviewed by the River Lost team: they are Bernice Brose; Andrew Giverson; Bill Green; Vernon Gunderson; Ervin Karrow; George Kauth; Owen Wanak. Green is a biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service; the others are retired or current Corps employees. With the exception of Green, these "overlap" informants would most likely come under the "Corps history, staffing and working conditions" umbrella.

Sixty-eight suggestions for Corps of Engineers interviews were collected in the course of the 9-foot channel literature review. This is how those interview suggestions look in relation to the themes outlined for study of the project.

#### Corps history

Most of the 60+ persons suggested by Corps staff at St. Paul and along the river come under the general category of "Corps history" in this research design. Approximately 25% of all the oral history referrals fall under the "construction" category, 50% fall under the general category of historic and/or current operations. In the operations category, most could best be described as skilled workers and/or managers. In terms of locale, the informants are distributed from Red Wing to Guttenberg—with noticeable clustering in the Guttenberg area and the Alma-Fountain City corridor.

#### Community relations

Approximately 16 town historians and knowledgeable civilian observers have been recommended up and down the river from Alma, WI to Guttenberg, IA. These referrals constitute the remaining 25% of the oral history suggestions. None have been interviewed elsewhere. Most

are business people and community historians. The distribution is fairly even; though again, there is clustering on the Alma-Fountain City corridor.

### Environmental

The environmental category is the one that remains less fully developed overall. Only one referee, Bill Green of the Fish and Wildlife Service, turned up in the initial search for informants, and he was interviewed in the Winona/Buffalo County project as well. However, additional suggestions are likely via Paul Toren, current president of the MN Izaak Walton League chapter. Mr. Toren has expressed a willingness to assist in locating Walton League veterans of the 9-foot channel years. Further research into the American School of Wildlife in McGregor, Iowa is likely to yield names. Also, some of those referred under Corps history and community relations categories are likely to have observations concerning environmental conditions over time.

Finally, it should be noted that evidence as diverse as the monographs cited throughout this report, Richard Bissell's novel A Stretch of the River and Jane Curry's interviews with pilots all suggest complex angles to this general subject. The river environment ca 1920s to the present appears to involve at least two distinct generations of environmental activists - the Walton League sportsmen/wildlife habitat types and 1970s-1980s preservationists, often organizing around issues of new chemical and nuclear pollutants and an aesthetics of inviolability. In between these groups, one finds no evidence of organized activity, but encounters repeated anecdotal evidence concerning raw sewage and the effluents from St.



Paul stockyards. (Note: See Bissell, pp.221-222; see also Curry's Fiedler interview tape 2, side 1 and the Edmund Fitzpatrick transcript (p.2) in Blatti, 1987).

### Engineering

In terms of the oral history referrals overall, this is a sub-category of Corps history/construction and operations. Three persons show up in this engineering sub-category - Frank Daly, E.C. Christiansen and Joseph MacDonald. Two were Corps engineers and one (MacDonald) worked for Nolan Bros. on lock and dam no. 7. (Note: Macdonald's role needs to be clarified.) None has been interviewed in the existing oral history series.

### Recommendations

The following courses of action are recommended at this time. The reasoning accompanies the recommendations. Priorities are indicated by order of appearance.

1. Conduct the 9-foot pilot interviews with engineering staff.

This group has not been tapped in other work within or without the Corps. These informants are most likely of all those still living to be able to provide rationales and broad perspective on questions of design and construction choices. Given the compartmentalized nature of work experience and generalization within the Corps, this seems especially important. On a more practical level, the demands of the literature review have eviscerated the total project budget; these interviews would involve less travel and attendant expenses.

2. Analyze the That's River Lost interviews at Winona County Historical Society before commissioning additional interviews. At minimum, the tapes with "overlap" referees should be evaluated before any repeat interviewing is contemplated. In the best of all possible worlds, the Corps and Winona County will work out a collaborative plan to index and (perhaps selectively) transcribe the That's River Lost interviews. Oral history is much too expensive a methodology to justify "knowing" duplication.
3. Actively search for 9-foot engineers and managerial personnel through advertisements and solicitations. Their names are right in the construction records. Print them in journals; ask them to come forward. My reasons for suggesting this are as follows. A fair amount of oral history has already been done on general river history and themes through Curry's work and the That's River Lost production. The initial list of Corps referees demonstrates that information on this level remains easily accessible. The question is: how much more in this vein is necessary to add anything to our understanding? The engineers present a unique and not yet explored set of perspectives. This is a chance to contribute something original to the historical record.
4. Pick up the environmental research that has suffered temporary triage in the face of time and money limitations on this literature review. Here again, there is a chance to contribute original and much-needed perspective. Minnesota materials and collections are weak on Mississippi Valley

environmentalism though indications are that there has been significant activity. The issues are certainly germane to the Corps operations on the 9-foot channel in general and to official policy within the institution in recent years.

5. Proceed with additional community memoirs and Corps history perspectives as indicated upon review of Winona County materials.
6. Solicit for new narrators at summer of 1988 commemorative festivities. Get as much background as to personal experience on the locks and dams as is possible.

#### Works Cited

Bissell, Richard. A Stretch of the River. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press. 1987. (Reprint)

Blatti, Jo. Phase II Final Report Mississippi Headwaters Reservoirs Oral History Interviews Pilot Project. Unpublished report prepared for Corps of Engineers St. Paul District. 1987.

Brunet, Patrick James. The Corps of Engineers and Navigation Improvement on the Channel of the Upper Mississippi River to 1939. M.A. thesis. University of Texas at Austin. 1977.

Curry, Jane. The River's in My Blood. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1985.

Daly, Frank A., Profile of a Priceless Legacy. Unpublished ms. n.d.

Fiedler, Allen interview (1978) from Jane Curry collection conversations riverboat pilots, Audio-visual Library, Minnesota Historical Society (uncatalogued material).

Gjerde, Jon. Historical Resources Evaluation St. Paul District Locks & Dams on the Mississippi River and Two Structures at St. Anthony Falls. Unpublished report prepared for Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. 1983.

History of Construction Mississippi River Dam No. 5. 1936.

Merritt, Raymond H. Creativity, Conflict and Controversy: A History of the St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Washington, D.C.: GPO. 1979.

O'Brien, William Patrick. Historic American Engineering Record Report Locks & Dams 3-10 (MN-20). October 1987.

Scarpino, Philip V. Great River: An Environmental History of the Upper Mississippi, 1890-1950. Columbia: University of Missouri Press. 1985.

Wilson, Joan Hoff. Herbert Hoover: Forgotten Progressive. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1975.

APPENDICES

REFERENCES

LOCATED

## References

### I. Repositories Visited

Corps of Engineers Offices, St. Paul District

Goodhue County Historical Society

Minnesota Historical Society  
Manuscripts & Archives  
Reference  
Audio - Visual

University Wisconsin - LaCrosse  
Area Regional Collection, Murphy Library

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Facilities

Lock & Dam 3, Welch, MN  
Lock & Dam 4, Alma, WI  
Lock & Dam 5, Minnesota City, MN  
Lock & Dam 5A, Fountain City, WI  
Lock & Dam 6, Trempealeau, WI  
Lock & Dam 7, LaCrescent, MN  
Lock & Dam 8, Genoa, WI  
Fountain City Service Center, WI

Winona County Historical Society

### II. Works Consulted

#### Books and Pamphlets

Anderson-Sannes, Barbara. Alma on the Mississippi 1848-1932  
Alma, WI: The Alma Historical Society. 1980.

A work of community and architectural history. Brief mention of lock & dam no. 4 as harbinger of change for town.

Angell, Madeline. Red Wing Minnesota: Saga of a River Town.  
Minneapolis: Dillon Press. 1977.

A community history of the Bicentennial decade. Brief discussion of 9-foot channel and New Deal relief programs of interest.

Bissell, Richard. A Stretch of the River. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society. 1987. (Reprint)

Autobiographical novel set in 1940s, protagonist a deckhand on upper Mississippi tow barge. Excellent, earthy descriptions of river and work conditions, communities along the banks, male culture of the barges.

Brunet, Patrick James. The Corps of Engineers and Navigation Improvement on the Channel of the Upper Mississippi River to 1939 M.A. thesis. University of Texas at Austin. August 1977.

Thoughtful study of environmental issues on the Mississippi through construction of the 9-foot channel. Good general source for institutional history of Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Izaak Walton League and the American School of Wildlife in McGregor, Iowa. A thorough exploration and use of relevant govt. documents and institutional publications, good discussion of emergent environmentalist ideas.

Carl, Pauline Coyle. Trempealeau Historical Album 1867-1967. (1967?) Trempealeau, WI.

Publication marking centennial (?) of community. Brief yet suggestive coverage of lock & dam no. 6.

Elkins, Winston. Trempealeau and the Mississippi River Dam. Trempealeau, WI (?): Trempealeau County Historical Society. 1984.

Bound typescript pamphlet (26 pp.) describing construction of lock & dam no. 6. Useful account of local response to the 9-foot project and participation in it. Includes list of area lock & dam workers.

Gjerde, Jon. Historical Resources Evaluation St. Paul District Locks & Dams on the Mississippi River and Two Structures at St. Anthony Falls. Unpublished report prepared for Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. 1983.

National Register assessment of locks & dams nos. 1-10 commissioned by the Corps of Engineers. Thorough account of local and national interests favoring 4-ft, 6 1/2 ft. and finally 9-foot channel development of the Upper Mississippi, excellent bibliographic survey of narrative and primary sources though little in the way of analytic or theoretical material surveyed. Primarily an intellectual history that derives its paradigms from a "Progressive era into New Deal" analysis of the 9-foot channel. Physical and aesthetic characteristics of the dams receive historical, as distinct from engineering or design, consideration.

Jambois, Nancy K. Genoa Today. (Genoa ?) 1983.

Bound pamphlet. Brief but useful mention of community conditions during construction of lock & dam no. 8.

Layton, Edwin T. (ed.). Technology and Social Change in America. New York: Harper & Row. 1973.



Collection of 10 essays. Two of the essays, by Layton and Muller, on 20th century professionalism and ethics within engineering of relevance to 9-foot channel research. Introduction and bibliographic afterward useful, also.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Revolt of the Engineers: Social Responsibility and the American Engineering Profession. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1986.

Revised dissertation on politics, ideology and status within American engineers' professional societies. Case study of ASME in the 1920s and 1930s. Follows on questions raised by Thorstein Veblen's work ca. WWI. Layton approaches his subject using conventions of intellectual and institutional history, provides valuable crosscheck for literary and cultural investigation.

Major Rehabilitation Program Mississippi River Locks and Dams 3-10 in the St. Paul District. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. St. Paul District. 1987.

Engineering and maintenance plans for locks & dams.

Merritt, Raymond H. Creativity, Conflict & Controversy: A History of the St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1979 (?).

Official, commissioned history of St. Paul District. Useful for general context of 9-foot channel development. However caution is required in using this source; choice of emphasis, and sometimes reported dates and facts, puzzling when viewed in relation to other materials.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Corps, the Environment and the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1984.

This study catalogs major issues and incidents without analyzing them historically. Of genuine but limited use.

O'Brien, William Patrick. Historic American Engineering Record Documentation Lock and Dam Systems 3-10, Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Channel Project. Unpublished report prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. 1987.

Engineering documentation commissioned by St. Paul District. Very thorough narrative and visual documentation. Analysis relies on Gjerde's "Progressive-to-New-Deal" line of thought; this requires further demonstration in both historiographic and aesthetic terms.

Scarpino, Philip V. Great River: An Environmental History of the Upper Mississippi, 1890-1950. Columbia: University of Missouri Press. 1985.

Much of this study is based on the Keokuk, Iowa hydroelectric project. The chapter on the Izaak Walton League's activities on Mississippi in the 1920s of particular interest.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Histories of Construction: Locks and Dams 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 -- 1935-1940. 20 vols. St. Paul District Office, St. Paul, MN. Typewritten. (Note: Copies on file at each damsite as well.)

Wonderfully detailed descriptions of construction. Sections entitled "contractors' organization" of particular interest to oral history research, as are photographs.

#### Periodicals

Minneapolis Tribune. June 18, 1978.

Sunday supplement article on Weaver Bottoms. Of interest in understanding dredging and siltation problems attendant upon 9-ft. channel.

Old Man River. 1932 -

Monthly safety bulletin and newsletter published throughout 9-ft. channel construction.

Red Wing Republican Eagle

Esp. coverage of dredging and river communities concerns.

"Mississippi River" in Rochester (MN) Post Bulletin. Saturday. May 19, 1984.

Post 9-foot channel planning and community concerns.

#### Unpublished Materials

Bock, Viola & Ethelyn Boardman, Lynxville. Lynxville: University of Wisconsin Extension. 1969.

Typescript ms. Brief, but informative references to construction crews and community conditions as lock & dam no. 9 built.

Kletzke, George S. et al. History of the Dredge William A. Thompson: 50 Years of Service 1937-1987. Unpublished manuscript St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1987 (?).

Typescript, unpaginated. Draft for commemorative piece. Good description of dredging in general plus the equipment and operations necessary to maintain the 9-foot channel.

## Interviews

Capt. Allan Fiedler of Fountain City, WI. Interviewed by Jane Curry October 17, 1978. Audio visual Library, MHS.

Capt. Walter Karnath of Winona, MN. Interviewed by Jane Curry, December 30, 1976. Audio visual Library, MHS.

Capt. Robert Richtman of Fountain City, WI. Interviewed by Jane Curry, October 16, 1978. Audio visual Library, MHS.

All three of these interviews very rich sources of 20th century river work, the Corps and other employment opportunities, personalities and stories.

Film footage, construction lock & dam no. 3. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

Visual documentation lock construction. Reminiscent of other U.S. Army films in style. Though rough in some respects, appears to have been produced with public audiences in mind.

Papers of the Izaak Walton League. Manuscripts and Archives. Minnesota Historical Society. St. Paul.

1920s & 1930s material very limited, mainly Minneapolis meeting programs. Some clues as to Rochester and river town chapters and activities.

Papers Ray P. Chase, 1897-1944. Manuscripts and Archives. Minnesota Historical Society.

Chase was a hostile observer of New Deal programs. Statewide memos and project descriptions apparently saved as possible ammunition for political attack. His files offer an interesting overview of community projects in MN - located nothing of value for PWA aspects of 9-foot channel.

Photo collection, Fountain City Service Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wonderful copystand duplicates of local residents' photos of Fountain City, 19th & 20th centuries. Also some good Corps photos of work in and around the boatyard over 80-90 year period.

Photo collections, Area Regional Collection, University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse.

Excellent collection of river recreation photos, wing dam construction, Corps documentary shots and some rivertowns. Mainly late 19th, early 20th century.

Photographic & vertical files on Mississippi River, Collections, Winona County Historical Society.

Some good wing dam shots, 1930s, 1970s, 1980s newspaper clippings on locks & dams. Good though limited background for construction and subsequent developments.

That's River Lost. Color. Audiovisual production. Winona County Historical Society (MN)/Buffalo County Historical Society (WI). 1983.

42 minute presentation featuring slides and oral history interviews. Essentially, a piece on siltation since the locks & dams constructed.

Vertical files, Mississippi River. Goodhue County Historical Society.

Miscellaneous clippings, brochures on Mississippi River, 1930s - 1980s. These generally document 9-foot construction and subsequent dredging.

Wallace, J. "Upper Mississippi Barge Lines" WPA Writers Project. Minnesota Rivers. Manuscripts & Archives. Minnesota Historical Society.

Wallace was a writer on the MN WPA; a continuing assignment, perhaps among others, was the 9-foot channel. Much of the material is in rough draft, interesting snippets throughout.

### III. Works Located, But Not Examined

#### Books & pamphlets

Bowden, Clyde N. (comp.) Catalog of the Inland Rivers Library. Cincinnati: Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. 1968.

Buckmann, Carol A. The First 50: The Story of the Iowa Division, Izaak Walton League of America 1923-1973. Lake Mills, Iowa: Iowa Division, Izaak Walton League of America. 1973.

Carlander, Harriet Bell. A History of Fish and Fishing in the Upper Mississippi River. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee. 1954.

Curry, Jane. The River's in My Blood. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1985.

Fairchild, Michael. The Legal and Administrative History of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. 1982.

(Note: Provenance unclear, appears to be report prepared for Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Fugina, Frank. Lare and Lure of the Upper Mississippi River  
Winona, MN: By the author. 1945.

Helm, Don R. & Tom L. Boland. Upper Mississippi River Natural Resources Bibliography. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee - Fish Technical Section. Joint publication U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & Iowa Conservation Commission. 1972.

In re Crawford County Levee and Drainage District 182 Wis. 404.

Madson, John. Up on the River: An Upper Mississippi Chronicle.  
New York: Nick Lyons Books. 1985.

Peterson, Alvin M. Palisades and Coulees: The Scenic Mississippi Valley from Prairie du Chien to Red Wing. Onalaska, WI: Modern Printing Co. 1948.

Rahn, Michael. A History of Wildlife and Hunting on the Upper Mississippi River. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee. 1983.

A Study of the Pollution and Natural Purification of the Upper Mississippi River. Public Health Bulletin No. 203.  
Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1932.

#### Periodicals

Marsden, Roger D. and Fred F. Shafer. "The Overflowed Lands on Mississippi River Between Saint Paul and Rock Island and the Practibility of Reclaiming Them for Agriculture" U.S. Bureau of Public Roads/USDA. 1924.

Outdoor America, magazine of the Izaak Walton League. Selected excerpts on Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, conservation ethic generally, League personalities and supporters, annual conventions in early 1930s. Period coverage 1920s-1932.

#### Unpublished Materials

American School of Wildlife Protection. McGregor, Iowa. Programs 1923, 1925, 1926 sessions.

American School of Wildlife Protection. 2 file folders biographical and general research notes. Courtesy Patrick Brunet, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Oberholser, Harry C. "Report on the Winneshiek Bottoms Drainage Project." Typewritten ms. 4 pp. 1922 (?).

Papers of Henrik Shipstead, 1913-1953. Manuscripts & Archives. Minnesota Historical Society.

Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. Selected papers of Ray Steele, supt., on the history and operation of the refuge.

Note: Much of the material in the "located but not examined" category on loan to contractor from the personal research files of Patrick Brunet, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

IDENTIFICATION OF CORPS

ORAL HISTORY NARRATORS

Potential Informants 9-foot Channel Oral Histories

1. Vyrle K. Abbott  
715 North 2nd Street  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
319/252-1136  
Retired lockmaster

Source: Multiple — Marv Pedretti & staff, lock & dam no. 10 plus Wally Voss

2. Clifford Beebe  
RFD #1  
Trempealeau, WI 54661  
608/534-7766  
Worked in quarry lock no. 6

Source: Diamond/Elkins

3. Raymond Bice  
1934 Nokomis  
LaCrosse, WI  
608/784-23056  
Former state senator and author local history

Source: Bill McDonald at no. 7

4. Bernice Brose (Mrs. Wilbert)  
RFD 1  
Fountain City, WI  
608/687-3641  
Cooked on dredges

Source: Wallace Farrand at no. 5A

Note: Interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost production

5. Wilbur Cerny  
Guttenburg, IA 52052  
319/252-1437  
Retired citizen, Guttenberg

Source: Marv Pedretti & staff lock & dam no. 10

6. Elmer Christiansen  
1380 Frankson Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55\_\_\_\_  
612/644-2531  
Engineer on project

Source: Multiple references — Carl Anderson, retired damtender;  
Pat O'Brien, HAER study



7. Ed Chun

Retired Corps (?)

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

8. Wm. Conley (Corley?)

193 Bryan Drive

Burnside, MN

612/388-9507

Retired Corps employee

Source: Roger Stewart, lock & dam no. 3

9. Frank Daly

Retired Corps. Worked on several 9-foot structures as civilian engineer, author of memoirs.

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

10. John Dammon

7006 So. 11th

LaCrescent, MN

507/895-6225

Started at locks in 1945, retired 1986

Source: Staff at no. 8

11. Leo DeFlorian

Genoa, WI

Retired farmer, good memory

Source: Staff at no. 8

12. Delven ("Pooch") Deneff

301 Main South

Alma, WI

608/685-4929

Local citizen, runs house museum

Source: Leroy Glander at no. 4

13. Winston "Bud" Elkins

401 West 2nd St.

Trempealeau, WI 54661

608/534-6423

Grew up in community, wrote history of no. 6

Source: Multiple — Michael Gordon, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee plus Irv Diamond at no. 6

14. Harris Ellis  
Rest home Minneapolis  
Worked on construction of dams  
  
Source: Staff at no. 5
15. Carroll Farber  
RFD #1  
Trempealeau, WI 54661  
608/534-6787  
His family owned the quarry which supplied the construction  
  
Source: Diamond/Elkins
16. Jerald Fieldler  
112 North St.  
Fountain City, WI  
Son of Capt. Allen Fieldler, works on dredge Thompson  
  
Source: Wallace Farrand at no. 5A
17. Donald Flitch  
Cassville, WI  
Retired, family originally from Alma, strong interest river  
history  
  
Source: Leroy Glander at no. 4
18. Clarence ("Slim") Fluekiger  
  
Master of dredge Thomson (retired?)  
  
Source: Staff at Service Center
19. Harry Fluekiger  
803 Main North  
Alma, WI  
608/685-3566  
Helped clear brush for no. 4  
  
Source: Multiple — Staff at no. 4 and Wally Voss
20. Walter ("Buck") Fluekiger  
Rt. 2, Box 48  
Alma, WI  
608/685-4582  
Retired, worked on derrick boat Alma  
  
Source: Multiple — Roger Stewart at no. 3, staff at no. 4

21. Earl Flynn  
Rt. 2  
Welch, MN  
612/388-4886  
Retired laborer and lockman for Corps.  
  
Source: Roger Stewart, lock & dam no. 3
22. Andy Giverson  
880 41 Avenue  
Winona, MN  
507/454-7269  
Retired dredge pilot  
  
Source: Multiple — Wally Voss, Fountain City Service Center plus  
Wallace Farrand at no. 5A  
Note: Interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost production.
23. Oscar Grossell  
  
Retired Corps  
Worked on nos. 4, 7 and 9  
  
Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District
24. Ray Grossel  
  
Retired Corps employee  
  
Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District
25. Raymond Grussel (?)  
St. Paul, MN  
Formerly on dredges Vesuvius and General Allen, at lock no. 5  
following WWII  
  
Source: Staff at no. 5  
Note: Same as R. Grossel above (?)
26. Vern Gunderson, master  
Donny Wolfe, operator  
Ed Sing, pilot  
Lenny Seymour, leverman  
Current staff on dredge  
  
Source: Staff at Service Center  
Note: Gunderson interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost  
production

27. John Hartman  
333 Main St.  
Alma, WI  
608/685-3326  
Retired businessman and politician  
  
Source: Leroy Glander at no. 4
28. Sam Isbell  
Stoddard, WI  
608/457-2613  
Worked on sites as electrician during construction  
  
Source: Multiple — Wally Voss at Fountain City Service Center  
and staff at no. 8  
Note: Is ill, may not wish to be interviewed
29. Roger Johnson  
  
Retired Corps employee (?)  
  
Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District
30. Mrs. Walter Karnath  
776 Terrace Lane  
Winona, MN  
507/452-5194  
Widow of Delta Queen pilot  
  
Source: Staff at no. 5
31. Irwin Karrow  
Alma, WI  
608/685-3676  
Retired asst. lockmaster  
  
Source: Staff at no. 4  
Note: Interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost production
32. George Kauth  
700 Hwy. 35S  
Alma, WI  
608/685-3610  
Worked on construction lock nos. 4 & 6, father-in-law present  
lockmaster at 4  
  
Source: Glen Duren at lock no. 4  
Note: Interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost production.
33. Irvin Kerkenbush  
675 East Lake Blvd.  
Winona, MN  
507/452-1682  
Retired lockmaster  
  
Source: Staff at no. 5

34. Charles Kirschner  
First State Bank  
46 So. Main  
Fountain City, WI  
608/687-9311  
Longtime family in area, many pictures

Source: Wallace Farrand at no. 5A

35. Verni Koehn  
Guttenberg, IA  
319/252-2314  
Retired citizen, Guttenberg

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff, lock & dam no. 10

36. Irvin Kriesel  
RFD 1, Box 304  
Trempealeau, WI  
Retired farmer. Assisted in clearing bottom land for no. 7

Source: nephew Wm. Kriesel at no. 7

37. John Kuempel  
Guttenberg, IA  
319/252-1391  
Retired citizen, Guttenberg

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff, lock & dam no. 10

38. Hank Langer

Retired Corps (?)

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

39. Pete Leavitt  
301 East 3rd St.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661  
608/534-7770  
Former lockmaster

Source: Irv Diamond/Bud Elkins conversation at no. 6

40. "Smokey" Lier

Retired Corps (?)

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

41. Ollie Lietha  
Buffalo City, WI  
Worked on wing dams

Source: Staff at Service Center

42. Vern Link  
Genoa, WI  
608/689-2052  
Started at locks in 1940s, retired 1972

Source: Staff at no. 8

43. Joseph E. MacDonald  
3625 Pillsbury Avenue So.  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
Worked for Nolan Bros. on no. 7

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

44. Kenneth McGuine  
310 Lessing St.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
319/252-1023  
Retired citizen Guttenberg

Source: Marv Pedretti & staff at lock & dam no. 10

45. Les Mericle

Retired Corps (?)

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

46. Irvin Muench  
826 South 2nd St.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
319/252-2192  
Retired Corps employee

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff, lock & dam no. 10

47. Dennis Odegard  
Rt. 2, Box 1H  
Duran, WI  
608/672-4421  
Young pilot on the river now

Source: Staff at no. 4

48. Milt Rath  
510 So. Main  
Fountain City, WI  
608/627-9266  
Retired painter at the boatyard

Source: Wally Voss at Fountain City boatyard

49. Burnell Reinitz  
206 North River Park Dr.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
319/252-1195  
Retired lockmaster

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff at lock & dam no. 10

50. Sam Sandvick  
c/o Bob Long  
DeSoto, WI  
608/648-3304  
Experience with towboats and brush clearing

Source: Staff at no. 8; Bob Long of #8 is son-in-law

51. Blanche Schneider  
1001 2nd South  
Alma, WI  
608/685-4876  
Local historian

Source: staff at no. 4

52. Frank Schoenauer  
122 South River Park Dr.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
319/252-2224  
Retired Corps employee

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff, lock & dam no. 10

53. Harry Schultz

Corps retiree

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

54. Eugene Schuppel  
Grandview Mobile Home Park  
Red Wing, MN  
612/388-7201  
Retired lockmaster

Source: Roger Stewart lock & dam no. 3

55. Dick Silverhorn  
405 Prospect  
Duran, WI  
608/672-4393  
Young pilot on the river now

Source: Staff at no. 4

56. Emil Silverman

Retired Corps (?)

Source: John Anfinson, St. Paul District

57. George Smith  
Rochester, MN  
Worked on construction

Source: Multiple — Staff at no. 5 plus Wallace Farrand at no. 5A

58. Ed Squires  
225 So. Humboldt  
Buffalo City, WI  
608/248-2604  
Retired lockmaster - served at nos. 4 & 6

Source: Leroy Glander at no. 4

59. Byron ("Barney") Stephan  
226 East 4th St.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661  
Likely to have worked on construction no. 6

Source: Irv Diamond and Bud Elkins conversation at no. 6

60. Wendell Stephen  
440 East 3rd St.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661  
608/534-7769  
Former lockman

Source: Irv Diamond and Bud Elkins conversation at no. 6

61. Harold Traister  
LaCrescent, MN  
Retired lockmaster

Source: Roger Stewart, lock & dam no. 3



62. Bob Trowbridge

RFD #1

Centreville, WI

608/539-2182

Worked on construction no. 6, witness to accidents and difficulties

Source: Bud Elkins

63. Howard E. Vorwald

812 North 1st St.

Guttenberg, IA 52052

319/252-1453

Retired Corps employee

Source: Marv Pedretti and staff at lock & dam no. 10

64. Wally Voss

68 Howard St.

Winona, MN

507/454-5844

Currently area lockmaster at Fountain City boatyard 608/687-9033

Source: Ed Helmueller at no. 5

65. Owen Wanke (sp?)

Alma, WI

608/685-4959

Retired lockmaster no. 4

Source: Staff at no. 4

Note: Interviewed by M. Doyle for That's River Lost production

66. Fritz Wolfe

Fountain City, WI

Worked on dredges

Source: Staff at Service Center

Additions:

67. Florian Pelowski

Rt. 2

Fountain City, WI 54629

608/687-6833

Worked on construction, remembers a lot

Source: Wallace Farrand lock no. 5A

68. Ambrose Stellpflug

Rt. 3, Box 623

Galesville, WI 54630

608/582-2310

Worked on construction, good memory

Source: Wallace Farrand at lock no. 5A

THAT'S RIVER LOST

PROJECT NARRATORS

Winona County Historical Society

Mississippi River Oral History

Narrators interviewed for That's River Lost: Soundings of the Upper Mississippi (1983?) 42 minutes, color, slide-tape format.

1. Max Bachhuber

1 tape    no date  
          no index

Note: operates fishing float below lock no. 4?

2. George Bai

19 January 1982

2 cassettes

tape 1            dam construction work

tape 2            dam construction RR vs river trans (side 1 only)

3. Hubert "Hub" Bambenek

Winona, MN    18 January 1982

2 cassettes, no index

tape 1 (all)

tape 2 (side 1 only)

Note: former fish guide, speaks in slide tape about clamshells,  
pearl button industry, pollution

4. Lee Blank

22 June 1982

1 cassette

(side 1 only)    aboard dredge Thompson at Reads Landing, no subject  
                  given

Note: 2nd engineer dredge William A. Thompson

5. Elmer Boller

Fountain City, WI    6 April 1982

2 cassettes

tape 1

- maintenance
- dredge Thompson
- work staff at boatyards
- role of Corps
- future of river

tape 2

(side 1 only)    - detailed acct. of job respon. at F.C. boatyard

6. Bernice Brose

Fountain City, WI    25 February 1982

2 cassettes:

tape 1

- family history
- cook on dredge Thompson
- work schedule for cooks
- personnel on the boat

tape 2  
(slide 1 only) - personnel on dredge  
- future of dredge  
- effects on wildlife  
- promotion river traffic  
- job memories

7. Joe Cysewski  
1 cassette no date  
no index

8. Fred Douglas  
2 cassettes no date  
no index

Note: Operates commercial float below Fountain City dam.

9. Elsie Drewes  
1 cassette no date  
no index

10. Jim Everson  
2 cassettes no date  
no index

Note: DNR employee (?)

11. Allen Fiedler  
Fountain City, WI 18 March 1982  
3 cassettes  
tape 1 - personal history  
- conflict with W.Karnath  
- selling of steamboats and dredges by government  
- winter storm work in ND  
- flood work  
- wing dam construction  
- F.C. boatyard supt.  
  
tape 2  
(side 1 only) - Reichtman family history  
- rock and brush wing dam construction  
- history of boatyard in F.C.  
- Titus, Fugina affair  
  
tape 3 - dredging  
- working for Corps  
- definition river rat  
- impression working on the river  
- Gen Thompson  
- F.C. boatyard  
- maintenance buoys and lights  
- changes of river  
- DNR & environ/Barge & Corps

12. Bart Foster  
1 tape no date  
no index

13. Cal Fremling  
1 cassette no date  
no index

Note: Biologist, Winona State University

14. Emil George  
1 cassette 15 August 1982  
no index

15. Andrew Giverson  
Fountain City, WI 9 March 1982  
2 cassettes:  
tape 1 - work on Gen Allen & Thompson  
- Capt. Henning stories  
- quarry work  
- piloting  
tape 2 (all) - buoys & maintenance  
- work on Gen. Allen  
- Armistice Day storm

16. Don Gray  
2 cassettes no date  
no index

17. Bill Green  
2 tapes no date  
no index

Note: Biologist, Fish & Wildlife Service (?)

18. Nick Gulden  
1 cassette no date  
no index

Note: DNR employee

19. Vernon Gunderson  
1 cassette 22 June 1982  
aboard dredge Thompson at Reads Landing, no subjects  
given

20. Earl Harry  
3 cassettes: 16 February 1982  
tape 1 - quarry  
- building wing dams  
- rock for construction wing dams

- tape 2  
(side 1 only) - selling bottom land to government for flooding/dams  
- commercial fishing
- tape 3 is marked "(+ M. Doyle's)" no date, no index.
21. Pearl Heitman  
Fountain City, WI 23 February 1982  
2 cassettes:  
tape 1 - work in parents' hotel as child  
- parents' work history  
- work on Red Wing & Thompson as cook  
tape 2 - cook on Thompson  
- duties on boat  
- people she worked with  
- retirement  
- work in Karnath's cafe
22. Dorothy Hill  
1 cassette no date  
no index
23. Walter Karnath  
Winona, MN 12 March 1982  
3 cassettes:  
tape 1 - steamboat piloting  
- father's career  
- Walter's career  
- boatyards in Fountain City  
tape 2 - use of government boats for generals' pleasure, etc  
- building wing dams  
- piloting Gen. Allen  
- piloting for private firms  
- own business  
tape 3 - private business  
- Delta Queen pilot  
- siltation  
- dredging  
- work in later career  
- river ecology
24. Ervin Karrow  
2 February 1982  
2 cassettes:  
tape 1 - wing dams and early government steamboats  
tape 2 - lock & dam, siltation problems on the river
25. George Kauth  
Alma, WI 15 February 1982  
2 cassettes:  
tape 1 - construction Alma lock & dam  
- Winona & Lynxville  
- cement work  
- dangers of job

tape 2  
(side 1 only)      - work on locks & dams  
                         - coming home for weekends  
                         - concrete work  
                         - clearing islands of shrub/scrub(?)

26. Al Kraning  
    1 cassette      no date  
                    no index

27. Reuben Lyngdal  
                    15 February 1982  
    2 tapes:  
    tape 1      - personal history  
                    - lock & dam no. 4  
                    - building coffer dams  
    tape 2 A      - story girl drowning  
                    - son working on river  
                    B      - work on lock & dams  
                            - dangers on lock & dams  
                            - work with niggers South

28. Fred & Helen Mahlke  
    1 cassette      no date  
                    no index

29. Bob McEvoy  
    Al Nordsving  
    John Von Rohr  
    Winona, MN      17 March 1982  
    3 cassettes      no index

Note: McEvoy former employee barge tows.

30. Multiple Narrators aboard "Ann King"  
    Gene Edwards  
    Larry Reed  
    Capt. Albert Rogers  
    Wayne Sibley (pilot)  
                    14 August 1982  
    3 cassettes      no index

31. Ed Neeb  
    Winona, MN      26 February 1982  
    1 cassette  
    tape 1 (all)      - hauled piling to dam construct.

32. Bud Ramer  
    1 cassette      no date  
                    no index

33. Eleanor Schreiber  
    Alma, WI      22 February 1982  
    1 cassette      - stories of being on "Minnesota," Mayo yacht  
                    - other people who worked on river

34. Owen Wanak

Alma, WI

24 February 1982

2 cassettes:

tape 1

- water settings in pools
- "locking through"
- budget cuts, effects
- lockmaster at Alma
- job positions on lock
- everyday work schedule

tape 2

(side 1 only)

- lockmaster Alma
- should barges help in cost of locks





With a \$7,500 grant from the Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation, the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library will begin a year-long oral history project with towboat captains, crew members, industry leaders, members of the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers, and other people associated with the waterways. Founded in 1983, the Pott Library is a special collections library of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association. The Pott collections include nearly five hundred linear feet of archival material: manuscripts, photographs, posters, paintings, barge and towboat blueprints, steamboat plans, and more. For more information, contact Charles F. Bryan, St. Louis Mercantile Library, 510 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63188, (314) 621-0670.

from May 1988 History News Dispatch

PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE



# HISTORY AFIELD

March 17, 1988

Jean Chesley  
Museum Director  
Goodhue County Historical Society  
1166 Oak Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Dear Mrs. Chesley:

I am presently conducting research on the construction of the 9-foot channel, specifically locks and dams nos. 3-10, on the Mississippi River for the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. This research is in preparation for oral history interviews with participants and observers of the channel construction ca. 1930-1940.

I am writing to ask if your collections contain material that bears on 20th century Mississippi River history and developments. I'm particularly interested in identifying oral and community history projects that already may have been done in your area. In addition, I am searching for material concerning these general topics:

- wing dam construction and dredging prior to the 9-foot channel, 1890s -
- the Federal Barge line of the 1920s
- environmental, farm and railroad interests' concerns about the water levels associated with the 9-ft. channel, ca. 1930-35
- local employment/interaction with the Corps of Engineers ca. WWI to the present
- National Unemployment Relief records associated with community hiring halls for the dams, ca. 1930-34
- the presence or influence of construction crews in your community ca. 1930-1940
- materials concerning operation of the locks and dams, 1930 -

Page 2  
Jean Chesley  
March 17, 1988

Finally, are there other repositories or privately held collections in your county that I should be aware of? Of course, I've checked the MHS Directory of Historical Organizations and the Reference Guide to Minnesota History, but you are better situated to know of the uncatalogued.

I will appreciate any assistance you can offer; I will be visiting the Minnesota-Wisconsin locks and dams and river communities in the first week of April. I will call in advance of departure to get your sense of county resources.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

March 17, 1988

Mark Peterson  
Director  
Winona County Historical Society  
160 Johnson Street  
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Mark:

I am presently conducting research on the construction of the 9-foot channel, specifically locks and dams nos. 3-10, on the Mississippi River for the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. This research is in preparation for oral history interviews with participants and observers of the channel construction ca. 1930-1940.

I am writing to ask if your collections contain material that bears on 20th century Mississippi River history and developments. I'm particularly interested in identifying oral and community history projects that already may have been done in your area. In addition, I am searching for material concerning these general topics:

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- materials concerning operation of the locks and dams, 1930 -

Page 2  
Mark Peterson  
March 17, 1988

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I will appreciate any assistance you can offer; I will be visiting the Minnesota-Wisconsin locks and dams and river communities in the first week of April. I will call in advance of departure to get your sense of county resources.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

March 17, 1988

Bessie Hoover, Liaison  
Wabasha County Historical Society  
c/o Lester Howatt  
310 N. High Street  
Lake City, MN 55041

Dear Ms. Hoover:

I am presently conducting research on the construction of the 9-foot channel, specifically locks and dams nos. 3-10, on the Mississippi River for the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. This research is in preparation for oral history interviews with participants and observers of the channel construction ca. 1930-1940.

I am writing to ask if your collections contain material that bears on 20th century Mississippi River history and developments. I'm particularly interested in identifying oral and community history projects that already may have been done in your area. In addition, I am searching for material concerning these general topics:

- wing dam construction and dredging prior to the 9-foot channel, 1890s -
- the Federal Barge line of the 1920s
- environmental, farm and railroad interests' concerns about the water levels associated with the 9-ft. channel, ca. 1930-35
- local employment/interaction with the Corps of Engineers ca. WWI to the present
- National Unemployment Relief records associated with community hiring halls for the dams, ca. 1930-34
- the presence or influence of construction crews in your community ca. 1930-1940
- materials concerning operation of the locks and dams, 1930 -

Page 2  
Bessie Hoover  
March 17, 1988

Finally, are there other repositories or privately held collections in your county that I should be aware of? Of course, I've checked the MHS Directory of Historical Organizations and the Reference Guide to Minnesota History, but you are better situated to know of the uncatalogued.

I will appreciate any assistance you can offer; I will be visiting the Minnesota-Wisconsin locks and dams and river communities in the first week of April. I will call in advance of departure to get your sense of county resources.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti





# HISTORY AFIELD

March 17, 1988

Harold St. Mary  
Director  
Houston County Historical Society  
c/o R. Halzworth  
Brownsville, MN 55919

Dear Mr. St. Mary:

I am presently conducting research on the construction of the 9-foot channel, specifically locks and dams nos. 3-10, on the Mississippi River for the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. This research is in preparation for oral history interviews with participants and observers of the channel construction ca. 1930-1940.

I am writing to ask if your collections contain material that bears on 20th century Mississippi River history and developments. I'm particularly interested in identifying oral and community history projects that already may have been done in your area. In addition, I am searching for material concerning these general topics:

- wing dam construction and dredging prior to the 9-foot channel, 1890s -
- the Federal Barge line of the 1920s
- environmental, farm and railroad interests' concerns about the water levels associated with the 9-ft. channel, ca. 1930-35
- local employment/interaction with the Corps of Engineers ca. WWI to the present
- National Unemployment Relief records associated with community hiring halls for the dams, ca. 1930-34
- the presence or influence of construction crews in your community ca. 1930-1940
- materials concerning operation of the locks and dams, 1930 -

Page 2  
Harold St. Mary  
March 17, 1988

Finally, are there other repositories or privately held collections in your county that I should be aware of? Of course, I've checked the MHS Directory of Historical Organizations and the Reference Guide to Minnesota History, but you are better situated to know of the uncatalogued.

I will appreciate any assistance you can offer; I will be visiting the Minnesota-Wisconsin locks and dams and river communities in the first week of April. I will call in advance of departure to get your sense of county resources.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

David W. Hawkenson  
Lock & Dam #3  
4330 East County Road 18  
Welch, MN 55089-9644

Dear Dave Hawkenson:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #3 on March 30th

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

LaVern H. Horstman  
Lock & Dam #8  
Genoa, WI 54632-0265

Dear LaVern:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #8 on April 4th

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti

p.s. I got the publication date for Nancy  
Jambois booklet on Genoa in LaCrosse.



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

Glenn J. Duren  
Lock & Dam #4  
P.O. Box 325  
Alma, WI 54610-0325

Dear Glenn:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #4 on March 30th

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

Anthony E. Helmueller  
Lock & Dam #5  
Route #1, Box 396  
Minnesota City, MN 55959-9756

Dear Ed:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #5 on March 31st

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti

p.s. Couldn't tour the Wikie; it was closed,  
but had a chance to prowel around  
outside.



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

Wallace W. Farrand  
Lock & Dam #5A  
Route #2  
Fountain City, WI 54629-9652

Dear Mr. Farrand:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & Dam #5A on April 1st

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti

p.s. The guys at the service center were  
very helpful, too.



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

Irvin C. Diamond  
Lock & Dam #6  
Trempealeau, WI 54661-0406

Dear Irv Diamond:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #6 on April 4th

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti

*p.s. Thanks especially for calling up Mr. Elkins.*





# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

William L. McDonald  
Lock & Dam #7  
LaCrescent, MN 55947-9502

Dear Bill McDonald:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited lock & dam #7 on April 4th

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 11, 1988

Dan Krumholz  
Corps of Engineers  
Fountain City, WI 54629

Dear Dan Krumholz:

Thank you and your staff for your courtesies when I visited  
Fountain City service center on April 1st

Altogether, I've gathered several dozen interview suggestions for  
the Corps of Engineers oral history project concerning the  
construction and early days of the 9-foot channel on the  
Mississippi. These will go into a report the Environmental  
Resources staff at the St. Paul District office later this month.

Should any additional names come to mind, would you please contact  
me at this address.

Thanks again for the help you've given already,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 12, 1988

Marv Pedretti  
Lock & Dam #10  
Guttenberg, IA 52052-0417

Dear Marv:

Thank you for the list of possible informants concerning the construction and operation of lock & dam #10. Much appreciated.

I expect to be in your area the week of April 24th and will plan to come by the lock then. I will call in advance.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 12, 1988

Edwin Hill  
Murphy Library  
UW-LaCrosse  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Dear Ed:

Thanks again for your courtesies when I visited UW-LaCrosse in search of 9-foot channel information last week. Its always such a pleasure to work in a researcher-friendly archive.

And thank you for putting me in touch with Pat Brunet; he has been incredibly generous with his own research materials.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 12, 1988

Patrick Brunet  
Murphy Library  
UW-LaCrosse  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Dear Pat:

Thank you again for your generosity with 20th century Mississippi River references. I will take good care of the materials you loaned and will return all this summer.

I'll be making one more trip out to Prairie du Chien and NE Iowa this spring on the strength of the materials you've shared.

Thanks again,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 12, 1988

Jean Chesley  
Orville Olson  
Goodhue County Historical Society  
1166 Oak Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Dear Mrs. Chesley & Mr. Olson:

Thank you both for courtesies prior to and during my visit to the Society on March 29th. Its always a pleasure to work with organizations that are hospitable to researchers.

Upon reviewing my notes, I wondered if Herbert Nordholm, who was interviewed for Red Wing Minnesota (1977), might still be resident in the community. His memories of civilian Depression-era programs are quite acute. If he had occasion to observe or work in the PWA phase of the 9-foot channel project on the Mississippi, I would love to talk to him about that.

I will appreciate any information you can provide as to Mr. Nordholm's whereabouts.

Yours truly,

*Jo Blatti*  
Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 12, 1988

Winston Elkins  
401 West 2nd Street  
Trempealeau, WI 54661

Dear Mr. Elkins:

It was so kind of you to come over to look & dam #6 when I visited Trempealeau and to bring a copy of your "Trempealeau and the Mississippi River Dam." Thanks again.

I had a couple of questions as I read the study. I wondered if you had taped the interviews noted in your text and, if so, where those might be collected. Also, what year was "Trempealeau..." written? Finally, did you compile that wonderful list of Trempealeau area project workers through a contemporary community canvass, or were you able to locate written records somewhere?

I will appreciate any amplification you can give in these matters. I wish that somebody in each of the river towns had done a project similar to yours!

Sincerely,

*Jo Blatti*  
Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 14, 1988

Mark Peterson  
Winona County Historical Society  
160 Johnson Street  
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Mark:

Thanks again for your courtesies when I visited Winona County in search of 9-foot channel materials the week of March 27th. You and your staff were very helpful and it is much appreciated.

I'm going to suggest to the Corps of Engineers that they explore the possibility of duplicating and indexing those Mississippi River oral history tapes in collaboration with the Society. If you have any thoughts about how you'd like to see that done, please send word. I'm also going to write Mike Doyle and ask if he can add any information to the list I've compiled of the tapes and will share any information of substance with you.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 14, 1988

William Patrick O'Brien  
HAER  
NPS  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
12795 West Alameda Pkwy.  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Pat:

I meant to send a scenic postcard from the 9-foot channel, but I couldn't find just the right thing. Maybe on my last trip out...

Do you have special requests/ideas for 9-foot channel interview narrators or questions from the HAER perspective? I've collected a lot of recommendations at the individual locks and dams and will be preparing preliminary recommendations for the St. Paul Environmental Resources staff in the next few weeks. I'm sure that John and Dave will be sending you a copy for comments. But any thoughts you have at this point will be appreciated and incorporated.

Yours truly,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 27, 1988

Brother Samuel M. Gasman, OP  
Dominican Novitiate  
2901 Grove Street  
Denver, CO 80211

Dear Brother Gasman:

Pat O'Brien, of the National Park Service in Denver, forwarded your name and address to me. He and I are researching historical aspects of locks and dams built on the Mississippi River by the Corps of Engineers in the 1930s.

I am in search of oral history sources, specifically, for locks and dams nos. 3 through 10. That stretch of river runs from Red Wing, Minnesota to Guttenberg, Iowa. I am seeking informants who can remember various aspects of the 9-foot channel project: construction and administrative work; New Deal relief programs; environmental and wildlife issues; shipping on the river; community impact of the large workforces within individual rivertowns and so on.

I understand that several of your relatives participated in construction of the channel in northern Iowa. I would greatly appreciate any names, addresses or background information you might suggest.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti





# HISTORY AFIELD

April 27, 1988

Roger Osborne, Archivist  
Dubuque County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 305  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Mr. Osborne:

I am writing to inquire about the Society's holdings relating to construction and operation of the 9-foot channel on the Mississippi River in the 1930s; I am specifically concerned with locks and dams nos. 3-10, on the stretch of river between Red Wing, Minnesota and Guttenberg, Iowa.

To give a little more focus to this inquiry, I am a historian acting as a consultant to the St. Paul District Office, Corps of Engineers. I am working on research and design for an oral history project on the 9-foot channel. In this phase of the project, I am identifying and evaluating sources concerning environmental and wildlife issues, community impact of large temporary crews (and subsequent operations of the completed locks & dams) within individual rivertowns, local administration of New Deal relief programs, engineering as a profession in the mid-20th century, shipping on the river, as well as fabrication and administrative history for the channel structures.

I have explored Minnesota and Wisconsin sources as thoroughly as time and archival networks permit, but am not as familiar with Iowa sources and personnel. I will appreciate any suggestions you may have for materials available in Dubuque or elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 27, 1988

Paul Toren  
805 Park Avenue  
Mahtomedi, MN 55115

Dear Mr. Toren:

I am writing to follow up on our telephone conversation last month concerning Izaak Walton League activities along the Mississippi River in the 1930s. The flu and some other (less awful) commitments have kept me from this corner of my desk for a couple of weeks.

As I explained over the phone, I am an historian, acting as a consultant to the St. Paul District office, Corps of Engineers. I am working on research and design for an oral history project that will document construction and operation of locks and dams nos. 3-10 in the 9-foot channel system on the Mississippi. That stretch of river runs from Red Wing, Minnesota to Guttenberg, Iowa. For this research, I am looking into broadly defined historical questions such as environmental and wildlife issues, community impact of the work crews and subsequent lock and dam operations within individual river towns. This is in addition to construction and administrative history for the individual locks & dams.

I am aware of the League's role in establishing the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge in the 1920s and also its activities in questioning the pool levels associated with 9-foot channel plans in the 1930s. However, much of this appears in the way of oft-repeated generalizations in secondary sources. I have been able to locate very few records that detail the thoughts of Izaak Walton League members or their actions regarding 9-foot channel issues at the Minnesota Historical Society or elsewhere.

If the League retains records that bear on this subject, I would consider it a great favor if you would allow me to look at those. Similarly, if you can suggest senior League members who might be able to recollect state and local chapter activities - education, lobbying or legal - concerning 9-foot channel construction, that would be enormously helpful. I can assure you that any information gained would be thankfully acknowledged and thoughtfully interpreted.

Page 2  
Paul Toren  
April 27, 1988

I will appreciate any leads that you or other Walton League members of the 1980s may be able to suggest.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti

cc: John Anfinson, Corps of Engineers  
Hampton Smith, Minnesota Historical Society



# HISTORY AFIELD

April 27, 1988

Michael William Doyle  
659 Crandall Street  
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Mr. Doyle:

In recent weeks, I've encountered several of the admirable public programming projects you've been associated with along the Mississippi, most notably the That's River Lost slide-tape produced in collaboration with Winona County Historical Society and the Alma on the Mississippi 1848-1932 community history. I hope we'll have a chance to meet sometime.

I am writing to ask for any assistance you can give regarding the themes and content of the oral history tapes collected as part of the That's River Lost project.

Briefly, this is why. I am working as a consultant to the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, engaged in researching and designing an oral history project that will document construction and operation of locks and dams nos. 3-10 in the 9-foot channel system. Having located both Jane Curry's river pilot interviews and your own communities-based tapes, I want to incorporate that data into my own findings and recommendations as insofar as is possible. Jane's work is fully transcribed, but of course, the River Lost tapes were collected for non-print production and are not. As you will doubtless appreciate, it is not possible to audition the collection from start to finish at this point (preliminary assessment) in the research.

I've been able to match narrators and affiliations for some of the less fully catalogued tapes by comparing cassette identifications and slide-tape content. And I'm working with the Corps and Winona County to explore methods and sources for a cooperative indexing/transcription project; the content and audio quality in the slide-tape certainly support that tack. If you can supply any addition information about individual narrators or especially solid interview content in the meantime, that will be greatly appreciated. This is not so important for some of the relatively well-known narrators, such as Fieldler and Karnath, but for others it would be of great help.

We are taking a broad intellectual approach to the 9-foot project in the Corps research: construction and administrative history; engineering as a profession in the mid-20th century; New Deal relief programs; environmental and wildlife

Page 2

Michael William Doyle

April 27, 1988

issues; shipping on the River; community impact of the construction crews and subsequent lock and dam operations within individual rivertowns. I've attached a checklist for your use; any annotations will be welcome.

With thanks in advance. Please ring the HISTORY AFIELD number if you have questions of me.

Sincerely,

Jo Blatti

SCOPE OF WORK  
ORAL HISTORY: MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOCK AND DAM NOS. 3-10

1.00 INTRODUCTION

1.01 The Contractor will undertake an investigation to identify, categorize, rank, and interview individuals who have worked on the construction and/or early operation of the Mississippi River Locks and Dams 3-10 (3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) as preparation for an oral history of this project. This contract is necessary in order to preserve important information not contained or poorly detailed in written documents. Corps of Engineers personnel (past or present) who are best able to fulfill this objective should receive primary consideration, although individuals who worked under contract with the Corps should also be considered.

1.02. This investigation partially fulfills the requirements of Engineer Regulation (ER) 870-1-1. This regulation establishes the general responsibilities and procedures governing historical programs of field operating activities. Specifically, it states that each Commander will establish an oral history program to conduct interviews with as broad a spectrum of the agency's active and retired personnel as possible.

2.00 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.01 The nine locks and dams on the Mississippi River from north of Red Wing, Minnesota, to Guttenberg, Iowa, are the focus of this study. The St. Paul District built Locks and Dams 3-9 in the 1930s, and the Rock Island District constructed Locks and Dam 10 during the same period. This study will increase the public's knowledge about this important project and its effect on the history of the Upper Midwest, Mississippi River navigation, and the United States.

2.02 This study focuses on individuals associated with the locks and dams and what they can contribute about the history of the project through their personal experiences.

2.03 The specific individuals to be interviewed will be determined during Phase I of the project. This phase entails a thorough review of the literature pertaining to the locks and dams, preliminary discussions with current and retired Corps personnel familiar with the project, and discussions with the District's Cultural Resources staff.

2.04 In Phase II of this contract, the Contractor will conduct at least seven interviews with individuals identified under Phase I of this study.

2.05 The Final Phase of this contract will synthesize the first two phases and incorporate changes recommended by the Corps and other agencies.

### 3.00 DEFINITIONS

3.01 This investigation will include a search for and review of literature pertinent to the history of the Nine-Foot Channel Project, under which the Corps built the locks and dams, as well as the identification, categorization, and ranking of candidates for the oral interviews.

3.02 "Literature search and review" is defined as the identification, review, and evaluation of the relevant literature and records. The purpose of the literature search and review is to provide the Corps with the Contractor's professional opinion on the quality, nature, and extent of the sources available on the history of the project, and to provide the Contractor with an initial list of potential interviewees.

3.03 "Identification" entails identifying those records and individuals likely to provide valuable information on the construction and/or early operation of locks and dams 3-10.

3.04 "Categorization" means separating the oral history candidates into categories on which they are most likely to yield information; i.e., construction, operation, navigation, and environmental effects.

3.05 "Ranking" after the above steps, the Contractor will rank the candidates on the basis of what they could contribute to an oral history of the locks and dams.

### 4.00 PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

4.01 The Contractor's work will be subject to the supervision, review, and approval of the Contracting Officer's representative.

4.02 The Contractor will provide all materials and equipment necessary to perform the required services expeditiously.

4.03 If requested by the Contractor, the District will provide a letter of introduction to explain the project purposes and request the cooperation of the interviewees. Where an interviewee denies permission for an interview, the Contractor must immediately notify the Contracting Officer's representative and discuss alternate individuals to be interviewed.

4.05 The Contractor must keep standard records that include cassette tapes and photographs.

### 5.00 GENERAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

5.01 The Contractor will submit the following documents, described in this section and Section 6.00: Draft Phase I report, Draft Phase II report, a Final Contract report, and a Popular report.

5.02 The Contractor's draft phase I report will comprise the literature search and review; will detail the approach, methods, and results of the

investigation; and will include recommendations regarding the appropriate topics and questions for the oral history interviews and the relevant individuals to be interviewed. The Contractor and the Corps cultural resources staff will jointly evaluate the draft phase I report and determine which topics, questions, and individuals will best accomplish the purpose of the study.

5.03 The draft phase II report will include the oral interviews, the edited transcripts of the interviews, and an assessment of the new and important information learned from the oral histories. It will detail the approach, methods, and results of the investigation, and make recommendations for further work. It will be submitted to the Contracting Officer's representative, who will review it and forward it to other appropriate agencies for review. Comments will be returned to the Contractor, who will make the necessary revisions and submit the final contract report.

5.04 The final contract report will incorporate the revised versions of the phase I and phase II reports in a single volume.

5.05 The Contractor's phase I and phase II draft reports and final report will include the following sections, as appropriate to the study. The length of each section depends on the level of detail required of the study and the amount of information available. The reports should be as concise as possible, yet provide all the information needed for evaluating and managing the project, and serve as a guide for future reference.

a. Title page: The title page will provide the following information: the type of study; the project name and location; the date of the report; the Contractor's name; the contract number; the name of the author(s) and/or Principal Investigator; the signature of the Principal Investigator; and the agency for which the report is being prepared.

b. Management summary: This section will provide a concise summary of the study, containing all the information needed for management of the project. This information will include the reason the work was undertaken, who the sponsor was, a brief summary of the scope of work and budget, a summary of the fieldwork and editing procedures, the limitations of the study, the results, the significance of the results, recommendations for further work, and the repository for records.

c. Table of contents

d. List of figures

e. List of plates

f. Introduction: This section will identify the sponsors (Corps of Engineers) and their reason for the study and present an overview of the study. It will also define the location and boundaries of the study area (using regional and area-specific maps); define the study area within its



regional cultural and environmental context; reference the scope of work; identify the institution that did the work and the number of people and person-days/hours involved; give the dates when the various phases of the work were completed; identify the repository of records and provide a brief outline of the report and an overview of its major goals.

g. Previous historical studies: This section will briefly summarize and evaluate previous historical research in the study area including the researchers, dates, extent, adequacy, and results of past work.

h. Theoretical and methodological overview: This section will state the goals of the sponsor and the researcher, the theoretical and methodological orientation of the study, and the research strategies that were applied to achieve the goals.

i. Research and analysis methods: This section will explain the methods employed and the reasons for selecting them. It will also describe and justify the specific analytical methods used and discuss limitations or problems with the analysis.

j. Results: This section will describe any historic resources identified during the study.

k. Evaluation and conclusions: This section will formulate conclusions about the Nine-Foot Navigation Project and its importance in terms of local and regional prehistory, protohistory, and history. It will also relate the results of the study to the stated goals; identify any changes in the goals; assess the reliability of the analysis; and discuss the potential of and goals for future research.

l. Recommendations: This section will recommend how many more interviews may be necessary, on which topics, and those individuals most critical to interview.

m. References: This section will provide bibliographic references for every publication cited in the report. References not cited in the report may be listed in a separate "Additional References" section.

n. Appendix: This section will include the Scope of Work, resumes of project personnel, copies of all correspondence relating to the study, and any other pertinent information referenced in the text.

o. Figures: The location of all historic sites and other features discussed in the text will be shown on a legibly photocopied USGS map bound into the report.

5.06 A cover letter submitted with the final contract report will include the project budget.

5.07 The Contractor will submit to the Contracting Officer's representative the negatives for all photographs that appear in the final report.

5.08 The popular report will be a brief summary of the study written for the general public. It will be submitted with the draft phase II report, reviewed by the Contracting Officer's representative and, if necessary, revised before resubmission with the final contract report. The writing style should be clear, avoiding the use of technical terms wherever possible; if such terms are used, they should be clearly explained. This report should emphasize the general results of the study and its significance in terms of historic cultural development, rather than detailing methods or descriptive information. The use of illustrations is highly recommended. At the Contractor's request, examples of well-written popular reports can be supplied by the Contracting Officer's representative.

#### 6.00 REPORT FORMATS

6.01 There are no format requirements for the field notes; however, they must be legible. If the original handwritten notes are illegible, they should be typed.

6.02 Formats for both the phase I and I draft reports and the final contract report are as follows:

a. The Contractor will present information in whatever textual, tabular, or graphic forms are most effective for communicating it.

b. The phase I and phase II draft reports and the final report will be divided into easily discernible chapters, with appropriate page separations and headings.

c. The report text will be typed, single-spaced (the draft reports should be space-and-one-half or double-spaced), on good quality bond paper, 8.5 inches by 11.0 inches, with 1.5-inch binding and bottom margins and 1-inch top and outer margins, and may be printed on both sides of the paper. All pages will be numbered consecutively, including plates, figures, tables, and appendixes.

d. All illustrations must be clear, legible, self-explanatory, and of sufficiently high quality to be reproduced easily by standard xerographic equipment, and will have margins as defined above. All maps must be labeled with a caption/description, a north arrow, a scale bar, township and range, map size and dates, and map source (e.g., the USGS quad name or published source). All photographs or drawings should be clear, distinct prints or copies with captions and a bar scale.

6.03 The popular report should follow the basic format requirements specified in Sections 6.02c. and d.

## 7.00 MATERIALS PROVIDED

7.01 The Contracting Officer's representative will furnish the Contractor with access to any publications, records, maps, or photographs that are on file at the St. Paul District headquarters.

## 8.00 SUBMITTALS

8.01 The Contractor will submit reports according to the following schedules:

a. Phase I report: Four copies of the draft phase I draft report will be submitted within 90 days after the contract is awarded. The draft contract report will be reviewed by the Corps of Engineers and other appropriate agencies.

b. Project field notes: One legible copy of all the project field notes will be submitted with the draft contract report.

c. Phase II report: Four copies of the draft phase II report will be submitted no later than 60 days following receipt of comments on the phase I report.

d. Final contract report: The original and 15 copies of the final report will be submitted 60 days after the Contractor receives the Corps of Engineers comments on the draft phase II report. The final report will incorporate all the comments made on the draft phase II report.

e. Popular report: Three copies of the popular report will be submitted for review with the draft phase II contract report. The original and 10 copies will be submitted with the Final contract report, incorporating comments made by the Contracting Officer's representative.

## 9.00 CONDITIONS

9.01 Failure of the Contractor to fulfill the requirements of this Scope of Work will result in rejection of the Contractor's report and/or termination of the contract.

9.02 Neither the Contractor nor the Contractor's representative shall release any sketch, photograph, report, or other materials of any nature obtained or prepared under the contract without specific written approval of the Contracting Officer's representative prior to the acceptance of the final report by the Government. **Dissemination of survey results** through papers at professional meetings and publication in professional journals is encouraged. However, professional discretion should be used in releasing information on site locations where publication could result in damage to cultural resources.

9.03 All materials, documents, collections, notes, forms, maps, etc., that have been produced or acquired in any manner for use in the completion of

this contract shall be made available to the Contracting Officer's representative upon request.

9.04 Principal Investigators will be responsible for the validity of material presented in their reports. In the event of controversy or court challenge, the Principal Investigator(s) will be placed under separate contract to testify on behalf of the Government in support of the findings presented in their reports.

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507/835-7107

HISTORY AFIELD  
P.O. Box 704  
Owatonna, MN 55060

**EDUCATION:** A.A. Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, 1966  
B.A. Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1968  
M.A. American Studies, State University of New York at  
Buffalo, 1975

**FIELDS OF INTEREST:** American social and cultural history; interpretive exhibitions, media and events in museums and related institutions; oral history

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

\*Principal, HISTORY AFIELD, Owatonna, MN, Summer 1986-

A founding member in consulting firm offering creative and technical services to museums and other programming institutions, Upper Midwest and nationally. Initiate client contacts, recruit associates, develop marketing, public relations, contracts and budgets, participate as practicing historian in firm's projects, oversight for development and direction of firm.

\*Director of Research and Interpretation, Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center, Waseca, MN, June 1985-July 1986

Overall responsibilities included development, direction, budgeting of interpretive program for 19th and 20th century farmsteads plus associated structures; work with executive director and board on institutional master plan; supervision of interpretive staff and collections; realization of physical sites, exhibitions and visitor programs; coordination with public relations, development and operations staff plus community volunteers.

\*Program Officer, New York Council for the Humanities (New York City and Buffalo), November 1978-May 1985

Responsibilities for proposal development and evaluation public humanities projects, liaison with statewide constituents, editing Council publications. In the area of program development, special interests and responsibilities included historical subjects, interpretive exhibitions and documentary media. Special projects included organization of PAST MEETS PRESENT, a national forum on historic interpretation in museums and other public sites, in New York City in October 1984, the Sleepy Hollow Conference on Interpretation in Outdoor Museums in 1982.

\*Producer, Historical projects, WBFO-FM, Buffalo, NY, January 1976-September 1978

"The Buffalo Social History Project," a series of 14 specials on aspects of work, education and immigration in 19th and 20th century Buffalo, was funded by the NEH, 1976-77. "The American Dream," 8 one-hour specials exploring ideas about success, social and economic equality, was funded by the New York Council for the Humanities, 1977-78. Both public radio series featured oral history interviews, dramatic adaptations of diaries, newspapers and other primary source materials, vintage fiction and music; portions broadcast nationally through NPR. Responsibilities as producer included research, design, fund-raising, liaison with academic collaborators, interviewing, scripting, editing, supervision of technical assistants.

\*Part-time producer and administrator, WBFO-FM, 1972-1975

As administrative assistant to general manager, drafted reports on station programming and operations for State University of New York management, assisted with fund-raising and day-to-day office affairs. As producer, programmed and announced weekly classical music show, prepared special features, live and taped, for cultural and public affairs programs, 3rd class FCC license. Special projects included "The Lower West Side, Buffalo, New York" (1975); "Working in Steel" (1975).

\*Manager, Falconer Books, Inc., Buffalo, NY, 1968-1972

#### RELATED

#### ACTIVITIES:

Board of Directors, Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum, 1988 -

Nominating Committee, Oral History Association, 1987 -

Member, Program Committee, Oral History Association, 1987 Annual Meeting, St. Paul

Editor and contributor, PAST MEETS PRESENT, a collection of essays or historic interpretation for public audiences, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987. (Sabbatical leave for this project, January-March 1985, funded through a grant from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.)

Panelist, Adult and Public Use, Study Center for American Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, March 1985

Contributing editor for media and public history Oral History Review, 1984-

Editor, "Selected Proceedings Sleepy Hollow Conference on Historic Interpretation at Outdoor Museums and Historic Sites," 1983. (Joint publication New York Council for the Humanities, Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Gallery Association of New York)

New York State Council on the Arts Production Grant (Media Arts Division) for radio documentary on F.X. Matt Brewing Company in Utica, NY, December 1982

"I Don't Want To Play in Your Yard"

Review of the movie "Reds" in Radical History (Fall 1982)

SITES Seminar on Exhibition Interpretation, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., November 1981

Guest panelist, Museum Aid Division, New York State Council on the Arts, December 1980

Field reviewer, Museum Aid Division, New York State Council on the Arts, 1979

Social history consultant, National Public Radio, Washington, D.C., Fall/Winter 1978 - 1979

Oral history consultant, Milwaukee Humanities Program, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Spring 1978

Member, Planning Group, New York State Conference on Community History (May 1978)

Outside evaluator, Rochester Genesee Valley History Project, pilot project in the uses of local historical materials in high school and college curricula and community, museum and media programs 1977 - 1978

Contributor, "Down and Out in America," cover story New York Times Magazine, February 9, 1978

Founding member, Buffalo Community Studies Group (Executive Committee, 1974 - 1979)

Course design and teaching, SUNY/Buffalo, American Studies undergraduate core course, "Patterns in American Cultural Development," 1973 - 1974.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
June 1987

Moderator, Panel on Academic Goals and Museum Programs

Oral History Association of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
February 1987

Leader, Advanced Workshop, "The Project Approach to Oral History"

American Historical Association Annual Meeting  
Chicago, Illinois  
December 1986  
Comment, "Scholars and the Media"

Oral History Association Annual Meeting  
Long Beach, California  
October 1986  
Panelist, "Summing Up the Transformation of the West"

Midwest Archives Conference

Hudson, Wisconsin

October 1986

Chair and comment, "After the Interview: Using Oral History"

American Association of Museums Annual Meeting

Washington, D.C.

June 1984

Panelist, "History Museums and Interpretation"

Sixth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women

Smith College

June 1984

Chair and comment, "Not Just Another Pretty Dress"

NYU Graduate Program in Public History

December 1983

Guest lecturer, "Public History and the Media"

American Studies Association

Biennial Convention, Philadelphia

November 1983

Chair and comment, "Social Space in Historical Perspective: New Approaches and Methods"

Seneca Falls Women's History Conference

Seneca Falls, NY

July 1982

Presenter, "Women and Work"

NEH Summer Seminar, "Historians, Universities and Communities"

Cornell University

July 1982

Guest scholar, "Public Presentation of Historical Research"

NYU Graduate Program in Public History

April 1982

Guest lecturer, "Oral History and Community History"

National Meeting of State Humanities Programs

Indianapolis

November 1980

Presenter, Workshop on Radio Projects

Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting

San Francisco

April 1980

Commentator, "The Public Perception of History"

Oral History Colloquium

East Lansing, Michigan

October 1979

Presenter, "Oral History on the Air"



Humanities Media Workshop  
University of Delaware  
May 1979

Presenter, Session on Humanities Programming for Radio

Empire State College Conference, The Growth and Development of an  
American City: Buffalo

February 1977

"Using Oral History", panelist and workshop leader

**ORGANIZATIONAL**

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

American Association for State and Local History

American Studies Association

Oral History Association

Organization of American Historians

DTIC

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